

FWP FACT SHEET
Frequently Asked Questions
Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan

Q: Why is there a management plan?

A: Since the mid-1980's FWP recognized the public's desire to participate in development of the state's fishery resources. The management plan provides direction for public involvement and management decisions as fish populations and angler use change.

Q: How does this plan relate to the old management plan?

A: The *Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan 2000-2009* is set to expire at the end of this year. Prior to implementation of the new plan, it is necessary to review and update components of the old plan.

Q: What area does this new plan cover?

A: The plan encompasses the upper Missouri River reservoir system, which includes Canyon Ferry, Hauser, and Holter Reservoirs, the Missouri River from Toston to Canyon Ferry, and the Missouri River between Hauser Dam and Holter Lake.

Q: Why write a new management plan?

A: Fisheries and angler use in the upper Missouri reservoir system has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. In order to maintain a viable management plan, it is necessary to revisit and update the goals, objectives, and management strategies for many of the principle fish species in the system.

Q: What is the duration of the new plan?

A: The new plan will be implemented for ten years, from 2010-2019.

Q: How can the plan be effective as fish populations are always changing?

A: The plan is adaptive, in that management "triggers" are used to implement different management strategies as fish populations change. Management strategies may become more conservative or liberal depending upon which triggers are set off.

Q: What is the Upper Missouri River Reservoir System Citizen Workgroup?

A: The Upper Missouri River Reservoir System Citizen Workgroup was established by FWP in 2009 to identify key issues and recommend management alternatives for the management plan. The Workgroup met six times between January-July, 2009. The Workgroup will reconvene to review public comments prior to submittal of the final management plan.

Q: Who was on the Citizen Workgroup?

A: The 18-person Workgroup consisted of people representing various interests in the reservoir and river fisheries, including: organized warmwater and coldwater angling groups, unaffiliated warmwater and coldwater anglers, ice fishing anglers, conservation groups, kid's fishing, fishing tournaments, landowners, outfitters, local business, and other interests.

Q: What are the primary issues in the draft management plan?

A: The Citizen Workgroup, FWP, and public comments identified a number of issues to address in the management plan. The Workgroup discussed many of the primary issues and provided management alternatives to consider for managing some species. Primary issues include:

- Walleye management and limits
- Maintaining quality rainbow fisheries
- Maintaining perch as an important sport fish as well as a forage species
- Improving angler access and opportunity
- Improving or supplementing the forage base in the reservoirs

Q: What are the major proposals?

A: The Citizen Workgroup identified several management alternatives to meet the goals and objectives in the draft plan. In brief, proposed alternatives in the draft plan include lowering the walleye limit on Canyon Ferry; raising walleye limits on Hauser and Holter; lowering perch limits on Hauser and Holter; exploring options for kokanee in Hauser; and maintaining a low-level kokanee population in Holter.

Q: How can obtain a copy of the draft Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan?

A: Copies of the draft plan are available online at fwp.mt.gov. Click "Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan." Copies are also available at most FWP offices or by calling 406-444-2449.

Q: How can I submit comments?

A: Substantive comments can be submitted at public open houses, via e-mail to UMRRFMP@mt.gov, or online at fwp.mt.gov. Mail written comments to:

UMRRFMP
Montana FWP Headquarters
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Comments will not be accepted via telephone.

Q: What is the deadline for public comments?

A: Deadline for public comments is October 23, 2009

Q: Where can I learn more about the management plan and the upper Missouri River reservoir system?

A: FWP's website contains information on the management planning process and basic fisheries information. Visit fwp.mt.gov. Click "Upper Missouri River Management Plan."